

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 CCO-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SCA-01 INSE-00 PPT-02 VO-03

RSR-01 /085 W

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O 142041 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0602

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SPOP, CVIS, CA

SUBJ: LEGISLATION AFFECTING WESTERN HEMISPHERE IMMIGRATION

REF: STATE 45788

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY COMMENT ON PROPOSED VISA LEGISLATION DESCRIBED REFTEL. AS DEPT WELL AWARE, EMBASSY WOULD WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD DECREASE WAITING PERIOD FOR QUALIFIED CANADIAN IV APPLICANTS. IDEALLY, CANADIANS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE TO WAIT, OTHER THAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, AS IS THE CASE WITH MOST WESTERN EUROPEAN APPLICANTS. CANADIANS TEND CONSIDER THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH US A SPECIAL ONE. THOSE AWARE OF US VISA REGULATIONS UNDOUBTEDLY RESENT FACT THAT CANADIAN APPLICANTS MUST UNDERGO WAITING PERIOD WHILE BRITISH, FRENCH, ETC., DO NOT AND NOTE THAT THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO LIMIT OR SIGNIFICANT WAITING PERIOD FOR US APPLICANTS FOR LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS IN CANADA. REQUIREMENT, WHICH APPLIES TO MOST CANADIANS, FOR LABOR CERTIFICATION PRIOR TO REGISTRATION, COUPLED WITH 20 MONTH WAITING PERIOD, MAKES IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR CANADIANS WITHOUT INDEPENDENT INCOME TO EMIGRATE TO US.

2. LEGISLATION OF JULY 1, 1968, EFFECT OF WHICH HAS BEEN TO  
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IMPOSE WAITING PERIOD FOR CANADIANS, HAS THUS HAD ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS HERE. EMBASSY AND CONSULAR POSTS RECEIVE FREQUENT COMPLAINTS FROM APPLICANTS WHO UNABLE PROCURE LABOR CERTIFICATION 20 MONTHS IN ADVANCE, AND THUS PRECLUDED EVEN FROM REGISTRATION. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REPRESENTING SUCH APPLICANTS HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH PRESENT SITUATION.

3. EMBASSY IS UNABLE ESTIMATE IMPACT OF HR 981 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION ON OVERALL IMMIGRATION PATTERN FROM CANADA. IF, AS SEEMS POSSIBLE, LONG- RANGE EFFECT WOULD BE TO REDUCE WAITING PERIOD TO ADMINISTRATIVE MINIMUM, IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN US INTEREST HERE. IN SHORT TERM ( NEXT TWO OR THREE YEARS), HOWEVER, EMBASSY GATHERS EFFECT WOULD BE TO REDUCE WAITING PERIOD FOR PREFERENCE APPLICANTS, THOSE WITH RELATIVES IN US OR HIGHLY SPECIALIZED SKILLS, WHILE EXTENDING WAITING PERIOD FOR OTHERWISE WELL- QUALIFIED NON- PREFERENCE OR SIXTH PREFERENCE APPLICANTS. THESE INCLUDE RETIREES AND PERSONS WHO MAY INTEND INVEST SUBSTANTIAL SUMS IN US. SOME POLITICAL BENEFIT MIGHT BE DERIVED FROM HASTENING REUNION OF SEPARATED FAMILIES. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD BE OFFSET BY EXTENSION OF DELAY FOR NON- PREFERENCE AND SIXTH PREFERENCE APPLICANTS, AND THAT OVERALL IMPACT HR 981 COULD THUS POSSIBLY BE WORSE THAN THAT OF PRESENT LEGISLATION. EMBASSY WOULD URGE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD EQUALLY ALLEVIATE WAITING PERIOD FOR ALL CANADIANS, WHETHER ACHIEVED BY SEPARATE PROVISION FOR CANADA, SEPARATE HEMISPHERE CEILINGS, OR OTHER MEANS. REMOVAL OF REFUGEES FROM NORMAL IMMIGRATION CEILING COULD BE EXPECTED, OF COURSE, TO EASE CANADIAN BACKLOG, AND WOULD THUS BE WELCOME.

4. CEILING OF 35,000 APPEARS MORE THAN AMPLE FOR PRESENT OR EXPECTED IMMIGRATION PATTERNS FROM CANADA. CANADIANS ARE NOT LIKELY APPRECIATE SPECIAL CEILING, OR NO NUMERICAL LIMITATION, HOWEVER, AS LONG AS CANADIAN WAITING PERIOD IS SO

SIGNIFICANTLY LONGER THAN THAT OF MOST EUROPEANS.

JOHNSON

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